

THE
YOUNG-MANS

Second VVarning-peece :

O R,

A Miracle of Mercies.

Being a true Relation of the horrible
suggestions, and tentations, wherewith Satan
assaulted me *A.W. Stationer of London*, whereby
he prevailed so far, as to force me to sin grossly, and
to despaire fearfully, in so much, that he brought
me near unto the making of my selfe away,
many and sundry ways, from the which
the Lord in mercy delivered me.

And therefore as a testimony of my thankful-
nesse to God, and love to my brethren, and former sin-
full associats: I have thought good to publish in print, both the
manner and time of my conflict, and also of my delivery.

Perused and allowed of, by four godly, and learned Divines in
this Citie.

The second Edition, Corrected by the Author.

EPH. 6. 13. 16.

*Wherefore take unto you the Whole Armour of God, that ye may
be able to withstand in the evill day.*

*Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to
quench all the fiery darts of the Wicked.*

L O N D O N.

Printed for *Anthony Wildegoose*, and are to be sold at his
house, in *Little-Woodstreet*, in *Bunring Alley*. 1643.





T H E
Y O U N G - M A N S
S E C O N D
W A R N I N G - P I E C E .

Being a true Relation of the horrible suggestions, and tentations, wherewith Satan assaulted me, A. W. &c.

WEE read in the Gospel of Saint *Luke*, that the rich man being in hell torments, hee prayed *Abraham* to send *Lazarus* to his fathers house, to warne his five Brethren, that they came not into that place of torments. Luk. 16. 27, 28

In like manner, I having been in mine owne apprehension, for a time, in the same place of torments, and thorow the mercy of the Lord, being delivered from thence; I have thought it meet to manifest as much charity as hee, towards my Brethren and associats, in warning them by my example, to beware of coming into that place. And to this end, I have thought it meet to set forth in print, a true and perfect Relation, how I have been assaulted; with the fearful suggestions of Satan, as followeth.

I having been guilty of the actuall committing of some grosse sins, even such as the Apostle saith, are not to be so much as once named, as becommeth Saints; it pleased the Lord to visit mee, with a fearfull and dangerous sicknesse, which occasioned me to call my sins to remembrance, and I was much troubled in

My falling in-
to sicknesse.
Eph. 5. 3.

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mind about them ; but within a while, even within the space of two, or three dayes, it pleased the Lord to give me some ease, both of mind and body ; at which time one *William Parker* comming to visit me, I desired him to reade some portion of holy Scripture unto me, which accordingly he did ; and then I desired him to reade a singing Psalme unto me, which he likewise condescended unto ; and first we sung together the fifteenth Psalme, and afterwards the thirteenth, untill we came to the last verse, which containeth these words :

*I will give thanks unto the Lord,
And prayes to him sing,
Because he hath heard my request,
And granted my wishing.*

Satans first
Temptation.

And even in that moment of time, as we were entring on the first part of this verse, Satan stood at my right hand, tempting me to blaspheme the great, and fearfull name of God, with the words of *Iobs* wife, to curse God, &c. and this he forced so vehemently on my mind, that I had no power to resist him ; in so much, that I thought verily I had done it indeed, and could not otherwise be perswaded, so that upon this occasion I was distracted, and could have no rest night nor day, being verily perswaded, that the Devil would fetch me away quick, and carry me into his own place of torments : thus I continued a while crying out, I had committed such a sinne, as there was no hope of pardon for, and I was so out-ragious, that no one durst stay with me in the Chamber ; then by my Masters means, there came a Minister to visit me, and by his instructions, I received a little rest of mind for a while, but afterwards the Tempter came more vehemently, and prevailed indeed.

1 Cor. 12. 3.

The Trance.

So that hereupon then, I cannot say with the Apostle, *I knew a man in Christ above fourteen yeers agoe, taken up into the third heaven* : But I can say, I knew a man in Christ almost ten yeers agoe, who was from his sick bed cast down into the second hell, in his own apprehension, and there for a while most grievously tormented by the Devill, and his hellish spirits ; and this was very terrible unto me, especially considering how those infernall spirits rejoiced at my comming thither, and being amongst those spirits,

spirits, me thought, they upbrayded me with this vaine saying, On earth a Saint, in hell a Devill; and then how ready they were to execute their office to the full in tormenting me; also me thought, there were the spirits of some of my sinfull acquaintance there, ready to help to torment my soul.

And here my brethren, behold and consider the craft and subtilty of this cursed Hell-hound, Satan, who in all my life time before, tempted and provoked me to sin most fearfully; which the Lord in his mercy was pleased, in the time of this my sicknesse, to convince my conscience of; Satan takes occasion, hence to suggest unto my Soul, this fearfull apprehension, to wit, that for my unworthy receiving of the Lords Supper, and my prophanation of his Sabbath and the like sins, I was tormented in Hell.

Whence we may see and behold, that Satan shapes his tentations according to our severall states, conditions and dispositions. Note diligently.

But to proceed, after that I had lain about three or four houres in the foresaid Trance, then me thought I was restored from thence, and stood upon the Earth, and that all the Skie was on a light fire, and that Christ Jesus came to Judge the Earth, and was set upon his Throne, and that I was to appear before his Judgement seat. Immediately, then me thought I looked upon my selfe, and was a most blacke deformed and ugly Creature, both by reason I had beene such a vile sinner, and for that I had been in the pit of Hell; and Oh I me thought that if I were but like unto those * two godly Ministers, who were about their masters worke, or like my master, and my fellow prentice, or the like, then should I not be afraid to appear before Jesus Christ; for I conceived them to be more free from sin then I was, & that they might appeare before the Judge without fear, but that could not I do. In this trance when I had continued a while longer, I came to my self, and then fell into a serious Consideration of those things, which were very fearfull & terrible to my Soul, not onely for the present, but a long time after: For though it pleased God to heale my body, and so raise me up from my sick bed, yet was it his good pleasure to defer the healing of my soule a long time after.

In which time, the Devill, who, as Father *Latimer* speaks of him,

Observe.

A Vision.

* Mr. Nathaniel Shute and Mr. Mulline.

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him, is the onely diligent Bishop in his Diocesse, did bestir himselfe, and like a roaring Lyon went about seeking to devoure me, tempting me to lay violent hands upon my selfe : And this he did first by tempting me and provoking me to commit grosse sins, and then in suggesting unto me after this manner as followeth.

Wherefore dost thou not make thy selfe away ? thou belongest not to Christ, therefore it is thy best course to make thy selfe away quickly, for thou committest great sins daily, and therefore the longer thou livest the greater sinner thou wilt be, and answerable to thy sins shall be thy torments in Hell fire. And truly brethren, this foul Fiend did prevail so far with me hereby, that I was divers times very neere the making away of my selfe ; I lived such a Melancholy discontented life, that indeed I was weary of living upon the earth, and I thought that death would put an end unto all miseries here, and seeing I must to hell at last, I had as good go sooner as later.

Satans second
temptation.

Whereupon, one day being very sore assaulted after this manner ; there standing a Ladder in the yard where I dwelt, I was tempted to get a Cord to have hanged my selfe, but through Gods great mercy I was prevented.

Then he perceiving he could not prevaile this way, he left off this tentation for a season, and yet he left not off tempting me to the committing of grosse sins, and would never let me be at quiet except I were acting and committing one sin or other to the terrour and disquieting of my Soul, insomuch that I lived a most miserable discontented life, so that sometimes, yea divers times I had not power to follow my Calling, but would oft sit by the fire, or lye upon my bed divers dayes together, and neglect my businesse, though I had scarce bread for my selfe and my wife.

Satans third
temptation.

Thus continuing for the space of six or seven yeeres, after my forementioned trance, without peace or rest, night or day, and playing many unadvised wilfull feates, rejecting the Counsell of my best friends ; At the last the old Serpent comes again, with his former Assault and Tentation, labouring to put me upon the work of sending both my soul and body in a bloody Chariot speedily into Hell fire.

And

And to effect this he takes his opportunity on a day, I lying upon my bed in a miserable discontented fit, and my wife going to market to buy provision, and leaving me alone, I took a knife in my hand, and put it to my throat, and did so much with it that blood came out and I felt it smart.

Satans fourth temptation.

Whereupon it pleased the Eternal God, Creator and Preserver of all mankind, to put this Meditation or Consideration into my mind, O wretched man that thou art, art not thou able to abide one quarter of an hours paine and smart, in cutting thine owne throat, and wilt thou suffer the devill so to beguile and couzen thee so much, as to perswade thee thou art able to endure eternall torments, and so to plunge thy soule into everlasting misery? Whereupon me thought I heard the voyce of God from heaven, saying, O do not make away thy selfe, dost thou know what I have for thee to do?

Gods mercifull deliverance.

And so *My soul* (to speak in the words of the Psalmist) *is escaped as a bird out of the snare of the Fowler, the snare is broken and I was delivered, blessed be the name of the Lord.* Psal. 124. 7.

Howbeit the Tempter left me not yet, but after that the Lord had delivered me from my former danger, Satan followed me & suggested unto me, that it were best for me to leave my wife and children, and live in some other place, and sometimes that it were best for me to drown my self, and very neer unto the doing of these and such like wicked and unnaturall actions had Satan sometimes brought me, but the Lord in mercy prevented him,

Satans fifth temptation.

And in all this time give me leave also to tell you I had no heart to Prayer, for being such a wicked wretch as I apprehended my my selfe to be, I was perswaded that my prayers and all other duties were abominable, so that I did either omit them, or else I performed them untowardly; the truth is, I had no heart to any goodnesse.

Neglect not holy duties.

And thus brethren by reason of my yeelding unto Satans tempting me first to the committing of sin, and then to despaire and make away my selfe, by reason of my sin, I endured a hel upon earth for the space of above ten yeeres, and then it pleased the Lord, out of his abundant mercy, to deliver my soule, and that by this meanes,

Yeeld not to Satans temptations.

I being at my work upon the 14. of *November*, 1643. my fellow workman and I falling into discourse of good Ministers, he told me that that evening I might heare a good Sermon at *Bar-*

Take notice of the Lords mercy to me.

tholomew

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sholmew Lane, neere the *Exchange*, so we having no great haste of work, we concluded to go together to hear it: and when we camethither we heard one Mr. *Willes*, whose Text was 1 Cor. 16. 22. *If any man love not the Lord Iesus Christ, let him be anathema, Maran-atha*: from which Text he delivered such heavenly matter, concerning the excellent condition of them that love Christ, and so laid open the fearfull condition of them that doe not, with the properties and qualifications of true love to Christ, that through the mercy of God, it wrought so upon my inner-man, that since that time I blesse God, I have been well in minde.

Brief Exhortations.

And now Brethren, I beseech you do not conceive of this Relation as a fained or forged thing, for I professe unto you all, it is a most certain truth; and therefore I beseech you beleieve it, and labour to make good use of it: Oh learn by my example to beware of sin, lest God in justice, not only give you over to be temporally tempted by Satan, as he formerly hath done me, but also to be eternally tormented by him, without all hope of recovery.

And you my Brethren of my Society, for to you especially do I intend my Exhortation, I beseech you consider, that you have more means, by reason that your Calling is *osiner* to have to doe with good Books, then many other Callings have; and yet alas Brethren, I feare we have been more profane and wicked, then such as are of many other Callings. O beware of Intemperance and Excesse, for that we have been too guilty of; Oh labour to know God, and to live with God, and keep close to him in frequenting holy duties, both in publick & private; and so turn unto God with all our hearts, and that speedily: And I beseech you be thankfull to God for me, and pray for me, that the Lord who hath in mercy begun a good work in me, would confirm it unto the day of Iesus Christ; which he grant for Christs sake, *Amen*.

Now if any through ignorance may suffer themselves hereafter to be perswaded either by their own corruptions, or Satans temptations, that this former Relation is but a fained thing, or some melancholy Fit onely, or such like, I would entreat them to take an opportunity to come to my house in *Little-woodstreet* in *Bunting-Alley*, and I will with the Lords help, give what satisfaction I am able.

F I N I S.

